



City of Annapolis

Department of Neighborhood & Environmental Programs

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Annapolis Environmental Commission

October 2, 2013

The Annapolis Environmental Commission (AEC) held its regular meeting on October 2, 2013 at 145 Gorman Street, Conference Room 3. **Chair** Weber called the meeting to order at 7:11p.m.

Present: **Chair** Weber, **Vice Chair** Kissel, O'Leary, Butler, Zolper, Kiraly, Dr. Riegel, Pogell

Staff Present: Mayor Cohen, Broadbent, Biba, Waters

Guest: P. Murphy, J. Butler, E. Michelsen, S. Weber

The AEC welcomed their new liaison, Matt Waters.

II. September 4, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Kissel moved approval of the September 4, 2013 minutes as written. Mr. Zolper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 8-0

July 3, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Pogell moved approval of the July 3, 2013 meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Zolper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 8-0.

III. **REGULAR BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMISSION**

A. **Subcommittee Reports**

1. Development Review

There were no comments from the Development Review subcommittee. However, Ms. Pogell asked if DNEP has approved the Forest Stand Delineation (FSD) for Milkshake Lane because it was her understanding that the removed trees issue could be addressed at the FSD level. Mr. Biba responded that the tree issue had not been addressed because the appeal has been dismissed as being premature and he is unsure if the appellant intends to resubmit another appeal. He explained that the forest conservation plan is being reviewed but has not been approved to date. Ms. Butler asked if there are time constraints or limitations on when DNEP has to respond to a forest conservation plan on projects. Mr. Biba responded typically it is 45-days. Ms. Broadbent added that the challenge with those particular trees was that a permit was not required in order to remove them.

2. Recycling

To make room for the rest of the agenda, the AEC deferred the report from the Recycling subcommittee to its November 6, 2013 meeting.

3. Outreach

The AEC deferred the report from the Outreach subcommittee to its November 6, 2013 meeting.

4. Water Quality/Stormwater

The AEC deferred the report from the Water Quality/Stormwater subcommittee to its November 6, 2013 meeting.

5. Renewable Energy

The AEC deferred the report from the Renewable Energy subcommittee to its November 6, 2013 meeting.

B. DNEP Report

There was no DNEP report.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Appointments to Fill Vacancies

Chair Weber asked about the status of filling the AEC vacancies. **Mayor** Cohen acknowledged that there are two candidates who have attended many of the AEC meetings but before appointing anyone he would like to meet with both candidates (he met with one) as well as discuss the matter with the Chair of the Environmental Matters Committee.

B. Ordinance #O-21-13

The AEC deferred the report on Ordinance O-21-13 to its November 6, 2013 meeting.

C. AEC Quorum Resolution

The AEC deferred the discussion on this agenda item to its November 6, 2013 meeting.

D. Update Website

The AEC deferred the discussion on this agenda item to its November 6, 2013 meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discuss City of Annapolis Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP)

Mr. Michelsen explained that in early 2010 the EPA put in place the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirement which is a blueprint or pollution guide for the Chesapeake Bay. The TMDL places a cap on the nutrient and sediment loads that can be delivered from the bay by the various Bay watershed jurisdictions. He further explained that Maryland established WIP Phase 1 which describes how the State intends to achieve the load reductions required by EPA. This description includes strategies and best management practices. The County developed its WIP Phase 2 that was a detailed set of strategies addressing how the County intends to achieve its load reduction goals. Some of these strategies included upgrading the wastewater treatment plants; conversion of septic systems, and undertaking new stormwater management projects. All these strategies are detailed in a summary located on the County's website and include a watershed by watershed priority. He explained that the County in addition to having TMDL requirements also has an MS4 permit that is a stormwater permit issued by MDE that requires treatment of a certain amount of impervious surface. He concluded by noting that the County has a Phase 1 permit and City has a Phase 2. He also suggested that the City develop its Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) imminently. There was a significant dialogue among the group regarding the best approach for the City to meet its WIP goals.

B. AEC Strategic Priorities Update

Mayor Cohen expressed an interest in improving the working relationship between the AEC and the City administration. He believes that there needs to be a better collaboration between staff and the AEC. He further believes that there are a number of issues that AEC, staff, Council and himself can work on together. He is interested in discussing goals for the next four years of his term if he is elected. He hopes to use the upcoming term if elected, as an opportunity to re-evaluate the current state of the budget, transportation, and environmental issues. He hopes to review the big picture of how stormwater management is currently handled by not only the City but by jurisdictions because this is a subject that is in transition so the City should take advantage of all opportunities that exist. Lastly, he discussed the need to enhance the current processes to make things smoother and quicker in order to meet timelines

and take advantage of grant opportunities. He concluded that the hope is to improve the dynamics between staff and the AEC so that they can work together on the shared goals.

Chair Weber mentioned that the City of Annapolis has adopted numerous plans with environmental goals, including the 2009 Comprehensive Plan, the 2009 Sustainable Annapolis Community Action Plan, the Idea Team report, the Watershed Study and Action Plan, and many others. There are common threads among these plans, such as reducing stormwater pollution by at least 10%; reducing greenhouse gas emissions (by 2012, to 50% of 2006 levels by the City government and 25% by the community at large); increasing tree canopy to 50% by 2036; and others. He said the focus should be on implementation now, and that the city should make meeting those goals and commitments a priority.

Mayor Cohen discussed the possibility of a collaborative monthly meeting between the AEC, City and other environmental organizations. Ms. Butler added that there are so many organizations that have expertise that they are willing to work with the City in a collaborative effort. Dr. Riegel said that there is a rising concern over the lack of identifiable discreet projects tied to the stormwater revenues that the City is collecting but the AEC will continue to give advice on moving toward executing those discreet projects to ensure that funds are not expended on nonvisible support as well as overhead uses. Ms. Broadbent indicated that she, Mr. Jarrell and Mr. Mallinoff will be meeting to review options to have a more watershed-oriented basis to meet the TMDL goals.

Mayor Cohen identified the next steps are to institutionalize consistent meetings between the Environmental Matters Committee, staff, and the AEC. He believes that staff does a great job, but communication on the current processes, specifically on reporting and identifying how funds are expended, can be enhanced. **Chair** Weber noted that the AEC could put together recommendations to follow up on the original idea of reporting. Mr. Zolper suggested measuring the results of environmental initiatives and comparing them to accountable goals to keep them high on the list of priorities. He suggested a sort of "NapStat", like the governor's "BayStat" at a local level. Mayor Cohen believes that a much better framework for working together can be established among the interested parties and agreed to follow up with Alderman Littman before setting a formal meeting. Mr. Murphy noted that the Annapolis Film Festival would be another opportunity for bringing the interested groups together for networking purposes.

C. Recycle Bins and Bicycle Racks Letter

Chair Weber mentioned that the AEC performed a rapid inventory of City Dock, and there were dozens of trash cans and 200 or more parking spots, but only 5 recycling bins in Susan Campbell Park, and none outside the Market House. There were only bike spaces for four bikes and approximately 10 bike spaces at the Market House. He asked if the City could install more bike racks and recycling bins downtown. Mayor Cohen responded yes, and explained that the City has received a grant for approximately \$30,000-\$40,000 from the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board so these funds should be received soon. As it relates to recycling bins the City put out 200 recycling bins in the commercial area and plans to use the solid waste funds to purchase 64-gallon wheeled recycling bins for every household. He agrees with AEC that there should be recycle bins next to the trash cans.

D. Suggestions for the City Council Environmental Matters Committee

The AEC deferred this agenda item to its November 6, 2013 meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Zolper moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:46pm. **Vice Chair** Kissel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 8-0.

The next AEC meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2013 at 7:00pm at 145 Gorman Street.